GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:25
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2000
MID-DAY-MEAL SCHEME
KANTI SINGH;MD ANWARUL HAQUE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have attributed the partial implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme to the lapses on the partof Food Corporation of India in accounting for the release of food- grains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the other factors responsible for the same;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to streamline the supplies of food-grains by the FCI and ensure full and meaningful implementation of the Mid-Day-Meal programme in all the schools?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a), (b), (c) and (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. Statement referred to in part (a), (b), (c) and (d) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No.25asked by Shri (Mohd.) Anwarul Haque and Shrimati Kanti Singh regarding Mid-Day Meal Scheme for reply on 21.11.2000

(a) and (b): Implementation of National Programme of Nutritional Supportto Primary Education (Mid-day Meal Scheme) involves various agencies such as the Central Government, State Government/UTAdmn., Food Corporation of India(FCI), district implementing agencies and transportation agencies. The supply of food-grains from F C Ihas usually been regular except for the period July-September, 1998 when supplies had been temporarily suspended by F C Idue to problems related to reconciliation of lifting figures and release of funds to FCI. There are adequate stocks of food-grains available with FCIand the supply channels of food-grains are open to the implementing agencies.

(c) and (d): The factors affecting the smooth implementation of the Scheme include late submission of enrolment data by the States/UTs, low lifting of food-grains by many States/UTs, non furnishing or delays in furnishing of lifting and utilisation figures of food-grains indicating the number of schools and beneficiaries covered during a month, and the inability of States/UTs other than Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh (174 tribal blocks), Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherryand Delhi (where ready-to-eat food is being given) to arrange for a cooked meal programme.

F C Ihas instructed all its zonal offices to ensure un- interrupted supply of food-grains for the Scheme. A simplified monitoring report has been developed for the implementing agencies for submission of progress reports periodically. Chief Ministers of all States/UTs where a cooked meal programme is not yet being implemented have been urged to immediately mobilise resources for the purpose.